



Last Updated: 03/09/2022

Phase II of Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pad (TRPP) Requirements - Effective October 1, 2008

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that Phase II of the federal tamper-resistant prescription pads (TRPP) mandate becomes **effective October 1, 2008**. As of this date the use of TRPPs for most outpatient written prescriptions for fee-for-service FAMIS and Medicaid enrollees shall be required in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement.

Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads

In 2007, Congress enacted Section 7002 (b) of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-28), which mandated that federal reimbursement be denied to states for Medicaid patients' outpatient prescriptions that are not written on tamper-resistant prescription pads or paper. Phase I of this federal mandate became effective April 1, 2008. As of that date Medicaid participation required the use of tamper-resistant pads or paper on all non-electronic, outpatient prescriptions the Virginia Medicaid and FAMIS Fee-For-Service Program (excluding e-prescribing, fax, or telephone).

During Phase I Virginia Medicaid required that all prescription pads or paper used for Medicaid and FAMIS fee-for-service recipients contained **at least one** of the following characteristics:

1. One or more industry recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription.
2. One or more industry recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber.
3. One or more industry recognized features designed to prevent



MEDICAID MEMO

the use of counterfeit prescriptions.

Medicaid
Memo:
Special
September
3, 2008

Page 2

Effective October 1, 2008, all hand written or computer generated and printed prescriptions must contain at least one feature from each of the three categories described in the Attachment appended to this Memorandum (the same feature cannot be used multiple times). Prescriptions for Medicaid patients that are submitted via telephone, fax, or e- prescribe will continue to be exempt from these tamper-resistant requirements.

What Qualifies As A Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pad?

While TRPP is a federal requirement for Medicaid providers, there is no single national standard that defines tamper-resistant. Each state Medicaid agency must determine which tamper-resistant features they shall require. Virginia has reviewed both the recommendations of the industry and other state Medicaid agencies and decided upon the standards described in this Memorandum. Effective October 1, 2008, Virginia Medicaid shall require that all prescription pads or paper used for Medicaid and FAMIS fee-for-service recipient prescriptions contain **at least one feature from each of the three tamper-resistant categories described in the Attachment appended to this Memorandum.**

The federal Medicaid authority, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), has stated that with regard to printed prescriptions generated from electronic medical records (EMRs) or e-prescribing applications, while special paper may be used to achieve copy resistance-it is not necessary. Prescriptions generated from EMRs or e-prescribing may be printed on plain paper, and still be fully compliant with the TRPP



MEDICAID MEMO

mandate, provided they contain at least one feature from each of the three tamper-proof categories.

Providers who write prescriptions for Medicaid and FAMIS recipients should contact their vendor to secure an appropriate supply of prescription pads or paper that will meet the requirements and begin to use these pads or paper prior to October 1, 2008. Orders may take up to four (4) weeks to process.

Appended to this Memorandum is an Attachment that summarizes the features that may be used for tamper-resistant pads or paper in order to comply with the CMS requirements for Phase II. They are categorized according to the three types of tamper-proof features as described by CMS.

Affected Medicaid/FAMIS Clients

The use of tamper-resistant prescription pads is required for the Medicaid, MEDALLION, FAMIS, and FAMIS Plus fee-for-service populations. CMS has offered guidance to the effect that the tamper-resistant pad requirement applies to all outpatient drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, whether Medicaid is the primary or secondary payor for the prescription. This includes prescriptions for "dual eligibles" where a Medicare Part D plan is the primary payer and Virginia Medicaid is the secondary payer. While the law specifies the term "prescription pad," CMS has stated that these requirements also apply to computer-generated prescriptions that are printed using paper inserted into the printer.

Medicaid
Memo:
Special
September
3, 2008

Page 3

Exemptions to Requirement

According to CMS, the following are exemptions to the tamper-resistant



MEDICAID MEMO

prescription pad requirements:

- Prescriptions paid by a Medicaid/FAMIS managed care entity (*this means that prescriptions written for patients enrolled in any of Virginia's contracted managed care organizations -- Anthem, Virginia Premier, AmeriGroup, CareNet, and Optima -- are not subject to this requirement*);
- Prescriptions transmitted to the pharmacy via e-prescribing, fax, or telephone. **Faxing is the preferred method.** *Please note, however, that Drug Enforcement Administration regulations require Schedule II controlled substances to be written prescriptions; in addition, Guidance Document 110-35 from the Virginia Board of Pharmacy, provides further guidance on faxed and electronically transmitted prescriptions; this document can be found at the following web address:*

 <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Pharmacy/guidelines/110-35>

Requirements for

[prescriptions.doc](#)

- Drugs provided in nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, and other specified institutional and clinical settings, as long as the patient never has the opportunity to handle the written prescription; and
- Refills of written prescriptions presented at a pharmacy before October 1, 2008 (when Phase II of the mandate took effect).

Key Implementation Issues

DMAS will take the following actions to facilitate the transition to tamper-resistant prescription pads:

- DMAS will provide payment for out-of-state prescriptions filled by



MEDICAID MEMO

Virginia pharmacists so long as the written prescription is on a tamper-resistant pad or paper that meets at least one of the required features from each of the 3 categories described in the Attachment appended to this Memorandum.

- DMAS will authorize payment for prescriptions that are filled when presented on a non-compliant prescription drug pad so long as the pharmacy receives a verbal, faxed, electronic or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the date on which the prescription was filled. **Faxing is the preferred method.**

Additional Information

A web page on the DMAS web site offers additional information on the TRPP mandate: <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-news.htm>. The web page contains a link to CMS' Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) concerning TRPPs.

Medicaid
Memo:
Special
September
3, 2008

Page 4

Providers and recipients can also contact the First Health Services Clinical Call Center at

1-800-932-6648 (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week) with questions specifically regarding submission of appropriate prescriptions.

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option (ARS) to access information



MEDICAID MEMO

regarding Medicaid or FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber information. Go to <http://virginia.fhsc.com> to enroll for access to the system. The MediCall voice response system provides the same information and can be accessed by calling 1-800-884-9730 or 1-800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to Medicaid providers.

“HELPLINE”

The “HELPLINE” is available to answer questions Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays. The “HELPLINE” numbers are:

- 1-804-786-6273 (Richmond area and out-of-state long distance)
- 1-800-552-8627 (All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance))

Please remember that the “HELPLINE” is for provider use only. Please have your National Provider Identifier (NPI) Number available when you call.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov. Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH (State and Local Hospitalization Program) Provider Manuals or click on “Medicaid Memos to Providers” to view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order it by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 1-804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

DMAS is pleased to inform providers about the creation of the new Provider E-Newsletter. The intent of this electronic newsletter is to inform,



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MEDICAID MEMO

communicate, and share important program information with providers. Covered topics include changes in claims processing, common problems with billing, new programs or changes in existing programs, and other information that may directly affect providers. If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-enewsletter.asp.

Please note that the Provider E-newsletter is not intended to take the place of Medicaid Memos, Medicaid Provider Manuals, or any other official correspondence from DMAS.